

How to Get Secret CIA Information

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CPYRGHT

Our family is doing this year

in McLean, Va., about a 25-minute drive from the U.S. Capitol. Near our house there is a huge new government office building which at the moment has no sign whatsoever to identify it. When we first moved out it had an appropriately huge new sign proudly proclaiming it to be the new home of the Central Intelligence Agency.

The Central Intelligence Agency is, of course, top secret. Most Americans had never even heard of it prior to the U-2 incident. So secret is this organization that Robert Kennedy, who also lives in McLean, thought that it might be a good idea if the huge new sign were removed. Now the Central Intelligence Agency is top secret again.

So secret is this organization that when you dial Elmwood 1-1100, they don't answer "Central Intelligence Agency," they answer "Elmwood 1-1100." If you ask for Mr. Smith at Extension 4500, so secret is Mr. Smith that he doesn't say "Smith speaking." He says "Extension 4500." How did you know enough to dial Elmwood 1-1100? Easy. You looked in the phone book under "Central Intelligence Agency."

Attorney Sought Zoning Information

Recently a fairly hot little local controversy developed about a proposal to build some apartments in McLean. The attorney for the developer came to support his plea for a zoning change by pointing out that the people working in this huge new building had to live somewhere. Naturally, he wanted to know how many people worked there.

He called the Central Intelligence Agency for the information. "Sorry, top secret."

He called the General Services Administration, which built the building. "Sorry, top secret. He called his Congressman and all of the government agencies which might possibly know. "Sorry, top secret."

Finally he had a wild idea. He had his secretary call the Soviet Embassy. His secretary was promptly told that 11,000 people worked in the huge new office building. Although she didn't ask, they also helpfully volunteered the information that it was the second largest office building in the world! It's hard to keep a top secret in Washington.

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